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RESOLUTION ON EAST TIMOR
AS CARRIED AT 1994 ALP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

1. Conference expresses its continuing concern over the situation in East Timor, and deplores the human rights abuses which have occurred since the last ALP Conference, in particular the massacre of East Timorese associated with the demonstration at the Santa Cruz cemetery in November 1991.

2. Conference calls on the Australian Government to continue to press the Indonesian Government to

   (a) make further major efforts to clarify discrepancies in the accounts of those missing following the 1991 Dili massacre;
   (b) take active measures to suppress and punish appropriately the perpetrators of human rights abuses in East Timor;
   (c) achieve a major reduction in what continues to be the oppressive military presence in East Timor;
   (d) fully respect the rights and dignity of the East Timorese people, in particular ensure the preservation of their distinctive cultural identity;
   (e) assist the East Timorese to fully develop their economy;
   (f) allow unrestricted access to East Timor by the media and by humanitarian and human rights organisations; and
   (g) as a major gesture of reconciliation, grant clemency to Xanana Gusmao and other East Timorese resistance members now imprisoned.

3. Conference further urges the Australian Government to continue:

   (a) to provide substantial aid to East Timor, through bodies which enjoy the confidence of the people and are well placed to address local needs; and
   (b) to seek permission to open an Australian Consulate in Dili.

4. Conference believes that long term reconciliation between the Indonesian Government and East Timorese people can only occur through a consultative process that fully involves representatives of all East Timorese.

5. Conference notes the continuing absence of proposals for an internationally supervised act of self-determination, and strongly supports the question of the recognition of East Timor's international status, which remains unresolved between Indonesia and Portugal and in the eyes of many other countries, being resolved through proper United Nations processes. Conference urges the Australian Government to encourage the UN Secretary-General and concerned governments to progress with greater urgency the talks being held under UN auspices towards a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of this issue.

export and import, possession and/or development of nuclear and bio-chemical weapons and degree of democratisation."

"The government intends to conduct more rigid evaluations of the recipient countries in respect to these criteria, and to reduce or even stop ODA to those countries whose military expenditure is outstanding or extraordinary, or which are against democratisation," Mr Akatani said.

"We believe that if these criteria are honestly applied to Indonesia, the number one recipient of Japan's ODA, discussion on the issue of East Timor will be inevitable. The Diet Members Forum will watch how this new policy is applied." He added that the government of Japan refused to accept the annexation of East Timor by Indonesia and considered the status of the territory as unsettled.

The Australian non-governmental proposal for UN sponsored talks on East Timor, presented to the Special Committee on behalf of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid by Ms Merrill Findlay, calls for UN convened round table discussions without pre-conditions on the future of East Timor. It specifically recommends that participants in the talks should include Mr Xanana Gusmao, representatives of the East Timorese political parties and Catholic Church clergy and representatives of the Indonesian and Portuguese governments. It also suggests a role for ASEAN in the talks process. This non-governmental proposal is expected to be adopted by member organisations of the newly formed International Federation for East Timor, as the basis of a global people's campaign to resolve the conflict in the former Portuguese territory.

In all 18 petitioners made presentations to the Special UN Committee over the two days of the hearings on East Timor, including a delegation of three parliamentarians from Portugal, representatives of Fretilin and UDT, Amnesty International, TAPOL, and petitioners from Japan, Canada, France, Holland, Britain and Australia.

For more information about the Australian talks proposal
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